Pakistan. It has been emphasised that in the event of such supplies to Pakistan, India would have to take necessary steps to safeguard its national security. Government's policy is that bilateral issues are to be resolved through mutual dialogue between the parties concerned. This policy has been reiterated in all relevant forms.

Amnesty International's Report

5618. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the 'Pioneer' of March 22, 1994 relating to the reported recent indictment of the Pakistan Government by the Amnesty International for serious human rights violation ;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ; and

(c) what steps Government have taken for raising the question of violation of human rights by Pakistan in the international fora and other countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Amnesty International in a 76 page document titled "Pakistan-Torture, deaths in custody and extrajudicial executions" released on 7 December, 1994 has stated that torture by the police, paramilitary and armed forces is endemic, widespread and systematic in Pakistsn, often leading to custodial deaths. This document has also detailed the methods employed for torture. Amnesty International has also made recommendations calling upon the Government of Pakistan to take steps to safeguard against torture, extrajudicial executions and disappearances in Pakistan.

(c) Government are aware of various reports on the conditions of human rights in Pakistan. Government have, at international fora, drawn the attention of the world community to the condition of human rights in Pakistan as reflected in these reports. It is regretable that, instead of taking steps to ameliorate the condition of its own people, Pakistan is indulging in a dis-information campaign against India on the human rights issue.

ISI Support to ULFA

5619. DR. ISHWAR CHANDRA GUPTA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence are supporting the United Liberation Front of Assam by providing a range of facilities and hide-outs ;

(b) whether ISI was providing hide-outs in Bangladesh for ULFA cadres;

(c) whether Bangladesh Government has been approached in the matter; and

(d) if so, with what results ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) Government are aware that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence is supporting Indian insurgent groups including the United Liberation Front of Assam through its bases in Bangladesh.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir; the issue has been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh on several occasions most recently at the first meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Working Group held in New Delhi from March 29—31, 1994.

While the Government of Bangladesh denies the reports of assistance and support being given by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence to the United Liberation Front of Assam from Bangladesh territory. The Government continues to pursue the matter with the Government of Bangladesh.

India's Place in Commonwealth

5620. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to some suggestions made by the President of the Commonwealth of Learning, Canada at New Delhi that India is best placed in Commonwealth to lead all developing nations against manipulation of the developed countries ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof :

(c) whether Government propose to take some initiatives in this regard especially in the context of threats to Indian sovereignty and integrity being created by Pakistan by supporting terrorism across the borders: and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and if not what are the reactions therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) and (b) Government are aware of remarks to this effect made by professor James A. Maraj, President of the Commonwealth of Learning contained in his Convocation Address to the Indira Gandhi National Open University on 16th April, 1994. India has consistently played a leading role in the Commonwealth in articulating the view point of developing countries concerning challenges in a changing world and in fostering socio-economic developmental programmes under the Commonwealth banner that are vital to the intersts of developing countries which comprise the vast majority of Commonwealth States.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) By established convention, issues of a bilateral nature are not raised at Commonwealth meetings. At the same time, at India's behest, the Commoniques issued by the Harare aswellas the Cyprus Commonwealth Summits have reaffirmed strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and reiterated the determination of Commonwealth Heads of Government to combat terrorism, whether perpetrated by individuals, groups or states.

Pakistan's Nuclear Programme

5621. DR. ISHWAR CHANDRA GUPTA :
SYED SIBTEY RAZI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to certain reports which appeared in some columns of Press indicating that Pakistan would not roll back its nuclear programme;

(b) if so, what is Government reaction thereto :

(c) whether Government propose to keep this aspect in view for discussion while sending either any delegation to foreign countries in future on any account or take up this issue for discussions with foreign dignitaries when they visit our country in future; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government have seen reported statement-